MangaBox

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ORIGINAL STORY
KOEI TECMO GAMES

THIS STORY IS FICTIONAL, AND COMPLETELY UNRELATED TO REAL PEOPLE, GROUPS, OR EVENTS.

NOSHI RIBBON
慰斗
中村一郎
ICHIRO NAKAMURA
THIS IS...

ICHIRO NAKAMURA
中村一郎
HE EVEN WROTE HIS NAME ON THE SIDE LIKE YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO...

A CHILD'S...
...CALLIGRAPHY PRACTICE...?

I WONDER IF IT'S SOMETHING THE KIDS WROTE AGES AGO...?
.....
YOU THINK SO?
THE PAPER DOES LOOK OLD, BUT...
Sniff
THE INK SMELLS PRETTY NEW...

NOSHI RIBBON
YOU'RE RIGHT.
ICHIRO NAKAMURA
.....
Sniff Sniff
SQUID
AND PLUS, THIS IS A FIFTH-GRADE CLASSROOM, ISN'T IT?
NOSHI RIBBON
THESE KANJI SEEM PRETTY COMPLEX FOR KIDS THAT AGE. "SQUID" AND "NOSHI RIBBON"?

YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT...
I PROBABLY COULDN'T EVEN WRITE THESE MYSELF...
AND, LIKE...
Sweat
...THAT ONE SAYS SQUID?
Drip
IT'S MADE UP OF THE KANJI FOR CROW AND THE KANJI FOR GANG ..?! Are you for real?
.....
I'M...
...KIND OF SURPRISED THAT YOU MANAGED TO GET INTO COLLEGE.
IT'S AMAZING, REALLY...
WHA?!
WHA?
NAW, AHAHA! I MEAN OUR SCHOOL ISN'T REALLY THAT HARD TO GET INTO, RIGHT?
HUH?
.....
...WAIT, AM I THAT BAD?

COULD YOU REALLY CONSIDER THIS A PRANK?
MAYBE IT'S JUST A PRANK.
THE REAL QUESTION IS, WHO IN THE WORLD PUT THESE PAPERS IN THAT DESK, AND WHY?
IF NOT, THEN WHAT?
.....
YOU MUST KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE, RIGHT?

...IN EACH OF THE 12 CARDINAL DIRECTIONS FOR US TO FIND.
...THOSE WHO WANT TO SEAL US IN HERE HAVE TO HIDE CLUES...
IN ORDER TO RAISE UP A DARK BARRIER, THERE ARE CONDITIONS...
...IT'LL REVEAL THE NECROMANCER AMONG US AND IF WE CAN CONFRONT HIM...
IF WE FIGURE OUT ALL OF THOSE CLUES...
...WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO DESTROY THE BARRIER...
...AND GET OUT OF THIS PLACE.

THESE ARE LIKELY...
...RIDDLES THAT THE NECRO-MANCER HAS LEFT FOR US.

WHAT ?!
IF WE CAN SOLVE THESE IT'LL LEAD US TO THE NEXT STEP.
AND IF WE CAN SOLVE ALL TWELVE RIDDLES ...
...GET TO THE LAST STEP, AND REVEAL THE TRUE IDENTITY OF THE NECROMANCER...
THEN WE WILL SURELY BE ABLE TO FREE THIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FROM THE DARK SEAL'S HOLD.

.....
B...
BUT...
...WHAT DO THESE EVEN MEAN?!
THEY'RE NOTHING MORE THAN MEANING-LESS LISTS OF VOCA-BULARY, RIGHT?
AT FIRST GLANCE, YES.
BUT THERE HAS TO BE SOME-THING HERE.
LET'S THINK ABOUT IT.
WHAT ABOUT THE SPIR-ITS?
WE'RE FINE.
THE MERGED SPIRITS GATHERED HERE, CREATING A POINT OF SINGULAR-ITY.
AS LONG AS WE'RE HERE, EVIL SPIRITS SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO GET IN.

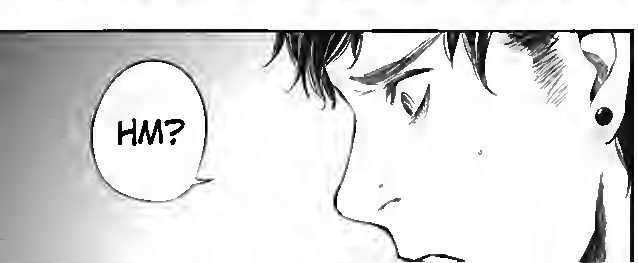
BIG TALK FOR SOMEONE WHO COULDN'T EVEN READ THE KANJI FOR SQUID.
LET'S FIGURE THIS OUT!
WOOSH

A-ALL RIGHT!

THAT WAS A COINCI-DENCE! IT JUST HAPPENED THAT WAS THE ONE WORD I CAN'T READ!!
LOOK, TAKAKURA... EVEN IF YOU PUSH YOURSELF, YOU'RE JUST GOING TO HOLD US ALL BACK.
Y-YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE MY FRIEND, HOW COULD YOU BE SO CRUEL? WE'RE HELPING EACH OTHER...
WHA?!
Zing

IS THIS GOING TO WORK...?
Tmp...
Tmp...
Tmp...

カツ…
Tmp
Tmp
カツ…
.....
.....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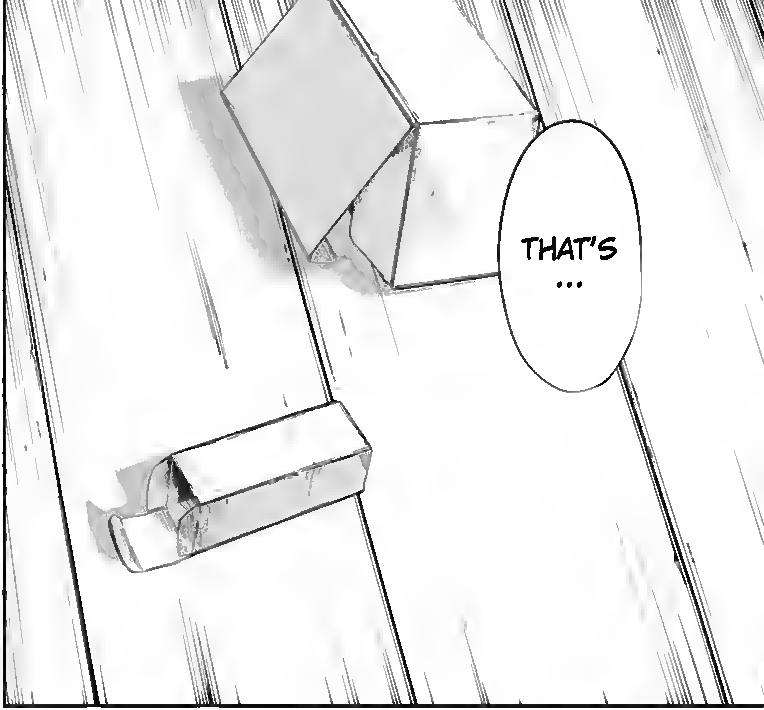
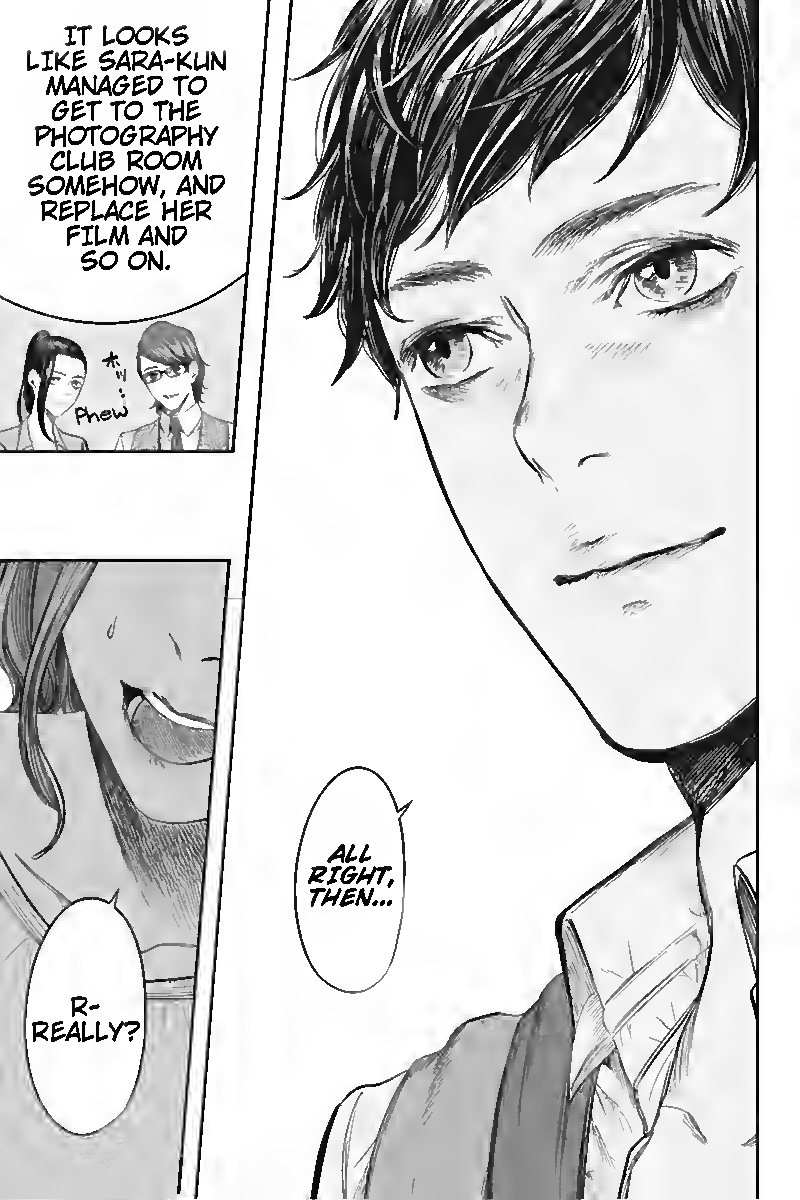

THAT'S ...

THIS SHAPE ...
OH?
THOSE LOOK LIKE THEY HOLD FILM FOR THE CAMERA OBSCURA WASHI-ZUKI-KUN WAS USING.
AND HERE'S THE STROBE BOX...
.....


IT LOOKS LIKE SARA-KUN MANAGED TO GET TO THE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB ROOM SOMEHOW, AND REPLACE HER FILM AND SO ON.
Phew
R-REALLY?
ALL RIGHT, THEN...

SO, THEN, IF WE MEET UP WITH HER, WE'LL BE OKAY FOR A WHILE?
IF SHE'S GOT THAT POWERFUL CAMERA OR WHATEVER WITH HER...

MEETING BACK UP IS GOING TO BE THE TOUGH PART.
THERE ARE THE EVIL SPIRITS AROUND AND THE NECROMANCER IS AFTER US, TOO.
AND BESIDES THAT, THERE'S NO WAY OF KNOWING WHERE SARA-KUN AND THE OTHERS...
...MIGHT BE RIGHT NOW.

SO WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
ALL WE CAN DO IS LOOK.
BUT WHILE WE'RE LOOKING FOR THEM...
...WE SHOULD ALSO LOOK FOR THE RIDDLES THE NECROMANCER MUST HAVE HIDDEN IN THE TWELVE CARDINAL DIRECTIONS.

WE CAN'T JUST RELY ON HER ALL THE TIME.
IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING ON OUR END, THERE'S NO WAY WE'RE GOING TO BE ABLE TO GET OUT OF HERE.

OH, I GET IT!
I GUESS SO, BUT STILL ...
.....
LET'S DO IT!!
WE GOTTA PROVE THAT WE'RE NOT JUST A BURDEN, RIGHT?
Skrch
...
ALL RIGHT, I GET IT.
SIGH ...
YUP.
HMM. TRUE, IN-DEED.

I HEAR SOME-THING ...
WHAT'S THE MATTER RYUU-ZAKI-SAN?
SHH! QUIET!
!
Scratch
Scratch
Scratch
Scratch
Scratch
Scratch

BIOLOGY ROOM
生物室
Scratch
Scratch
Scratch
Skrch
WHAT... IS THAT NOISE?
IT'S COMING FROM THE BIOLOGY ROOM...?
.....
TO BE CONTINUED...